

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 07746 011921Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9714

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7746

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FOR THE SECRETARY EYES ONLY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MX

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH RABASA, MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

REF: MEXICO 7743

1. IN OUR CONVERSATION AUGUST 30, RABASA ASKED THAT I ASSURE YOU THAT HIS MISSION TO EGYPT TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A PERSONAL MEETING BETWEEN SADAT AND RABIN WAS IN NO WAY INTENDED TO BE PRESUMPTUOUS OR TO MEDDLE IN A MATTER TO WHICH YOU YOURSELF WERE ABOUT TO GIVE YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION. MEXICO'S POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST WAS BASED SQUARELY ON UNSC RESOLUTION 242 AND MEXICO(S SINCEREST HOPE WAS FOR YOUR SUCCESS.

2. RABAIN HAD TOLD ECHEVERRIA OF HIS DESIRE TO MEET WITH SADAT AT ANY PLACE AND AT ANY TIME AND ECHEVERRIA HAD FELT IT WOULD APPEAR OFF-HAND IF SOME ATTEMPT WERE NOT MADE TO HELP BRING ABOUT SUCH A MEETING. ECHEVERRIA REALIZED IT WAS A HOPELESS CASE, BUT WANTED TO MAKE THE EFFORT AS THERE WAS AT LEAST A REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT THE REQUEST OF A THIRD WORLD LEADER WHO HAD RECENTLY BEEN HIMSELF RECEIVED BY SADAT, MIGHT POSSIBLY PROVIDE THE FACE-SAVING
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WINDOW-DRESSING WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY BRING ABOUT THE

DIRECT MEETING DESIRED BY RABIN.

3. RABASA WAS OBVIOUSLY UNCOMFORTABLE AND SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY THIS EPISODE INTO WHICH HE HAD CLEARLY (AND TYPICALLY) BEEN PUSHED BY HIS PRESIDENT. INCIDENTIALLY, HE SEEMED COMPLETELY UNAWARE THAT ECHEVERRIA HAD SENT FOR ME TWO DAYS BEFORE AND OUTLINED HIS OTHER NEW PROPOSAL FOR HORNING IN ON THE MIDDLE EAST THROUGH A UN-SPONSORED CONCILIATION BY THREE CHIEFS OF STATE . . . IN THIS GOVERNMENT, THE RIGHT HAND OFTEN DOES NOT TELL THE LEFT HAND WHAT IT IS UP TO, AND AS I AM UNINTENTIONALLY IN THE MIDDLE, IT MIGHT BE BEST NOT TO MENTION THE PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATION WITH ME, WHICH WAS PRESUMABLY A PREVIEW OF WHAT RABASA HIMSELF WILL RAISE WITH YOU.

4. RABASA, AS NOTED ABOVE, WAS APOLOGETIC OVER HIS OWN ROLE IN ATTEMPTING TO BRING TOGETHER RABIN AND SADAT, BUT WAS VERY PROUD (AS INDEED WAS ECHEVERRIA) THAT IN OTHER RESPECTS BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT HAD TREATED THE ECHEVERRIA VISIT AS ONE OF IMPORTANCE, HAD GIVEN HIM LONG AND INTIMATE BRIEFINGS -- IN OTHER WORDS, MEXICO WAS TAKEN SERIOUSLY AND THIS WAS GRATIFYING INDICATION THAT IT NOW HAD ADULT STATUS IN WORLD AFFAIRS.

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